THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loss to Defence Forces due to recent earthquake in Gujarat

3651. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loss of lives and properties has been caused to the Indian Army/Air Force/Navy during the recent earthquake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated expenditure incurred by the Air Force in its evacuation operation in Gujarat; and

(d) the details of the efforts made and aid provided so far in order to restore the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The recent earthquake in Gujarat has caused significant loss to personnel and damage to properties of the Indian Armed Forces. 29 defence employees of the Armed Forces and 57 family members have died. 25 defence employees and 61 family members have been injured. The financial loss for replacement of damaged infrastructure/assets has been estimated at Rs. 224 crores of the Armed Forces.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the Air Force in its evacuation operation in Gujarat has been estimated at Rs. 109 crores.

(d) The Armed Forces launched their largest ever relief operations

under most difficult circumstances in devastated areas of Gujarat. The IAF brought relief to victims by evacuating casualties to safer places and transporting urgently required relief material to the affected areas. Over 20,000 Army personnel were committed in rescue and relief operations. The Army provided a wide range of heavy engineering equipment to clear the debris and rescue people trapped under the rubble. The Army Medical Corps reinforced these efforts by deploying mobile medical units in addition to providing facilities at various Military Hospitals. The Indian Navy carried approximately 30 tonnes of cooked food and rations, as well as 200 tonnes of ration from the Maharashtra Government for distribution to earthquake victims.

Training courses for Cyber Probes

3652. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce suitable training courses at the Military Intelligence Training School and Depots for countering cyber probes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether some civilian experts are proposed to be associated with the programme as reported in the Indian Express dated 17th January, 2001 and if so, the manner in which the secrecy of critical information would be ensured?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to introduce courses at Military Intelligence Training School and Depots for countering cyber probes.